

The Fourth Nairobi Innovation Week has been launched.

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The University of Nairobi flagship project, Nairobi Innovation Week 2018 was officially launched by Ambassador Amina Mohammed, the Cabinet Secretary for Education. The launch was done on, March 7, 2018 at the Main Campus, Taifa Hall.

Speaking during the launch, Ambassador Amina Mohammed observed that President Uhuru Kenyatta, has made innovation a key pillar of the government's development agenda. Innovation will be key in achieving the 'Big Four'; manufacturing, housing, healthcare and food security. The Ambassador requested the private sector to plug in and help universities to nurture the innovations ecosystem in the country.

CS Amina Mohammed noted that with innovations, the time for the fourth industrial revolution has come and Kenya is advantaged to take the technology revolution and transform our economy. CS Amina, thanked the University management for aligning Innovation to the government Big Four Agenda. "No Country has developed without investment in education and innovations. East Asian countries have been able to transform their economies and provide millions of jobs for their citizens and improve the living standards of their people through innovation", she said. With the ongoing reforms in the education sector, Ambassador Amina Mohammed said that the digital literacy will inspire innovation in young people. Education will help children to discover and they'll be capable of creating new things.

CS Aden Mohammed, the Cabinet Secretary for Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, thanked the innovators who are coming up with good ideas and good innovations. He asked more players to come forward and support the innovations ecosystem.

Prof. Peter Mbithi, the University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, highlighted the various achievements the University has made through innovation, key among them being a: satellite that will be launched into space in May, 2018 and adaptable shoe design that was recently bought by Bata Shoe Company. He revealed that the University will soon develop tech-park, an innovations incubation center. He asked the private sector to come forward and partner with the University.

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The Nairobi Innovation Week has been possible courtesy of many partners, key among them being Barclays Bank of Kenya, NETFUND, UNICEF, Israel Embassy, Finland Embassy, Nairobi Alumni Association, NRF among others. Barclays CEO, Jeremy Awori who spoke on behalf of the partners noted that as a bank, they have invested heavily in innovation to increase customer experience. He added that Nairobi Innovation Week fits well into the banks strategy of improving customer banking experience via the use of robotics, artificial intelligence, instant messaging and automated marketing.

The fourth Nairobi Innovation Week runs from March, 5-9, 2018. For more information, check out www.innovationweek.co.ke [8]

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